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this. "If the debtor fails to pay, at the appointed time, he may not only be imprisoned, but his chattels and 'burgage' tenements (*i. e.*, lands in the borough) may be sold, without any preliminary proceedings, by the mayor to satisfy the debt, or if there is any difficulty in effecting the sale, the debtor's chattels and *all* his lands may be handed over at a reasonable valuation to the creditor, until, out of the issues, the debt is liquidated." The remedy was effective though radical. Hence, it is pointed out by Mr. Jenks, the institution of entails in the same year must be regarded as a kind of counter concession to the feudal aristocracy, which was rendered of little practical value through the later invention of the collusive action by common recovery.

Lack of space prevents further illustration of the author's discussion of Edward's constructive legislation. It must suffice to say that his book is a well-written and sound contribution to English constitutional history.

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

Histoire de France depuis les Origines jusqu'à la Révolution. Par ERNEST LAVISSE. Tome IV. Les Premiers Valois et la Guerre de Cent Ans (1328-1422). Par A. COVILLE. (Paris : Hachette et Cie. 1902. Pp. 448.)

THE political and social transformations of France during the Hundred Years War were so remarkable, the evolution of institutions and ideas so rapid, the relations of France with foreign states so intricate, the military events so far-reaching in effect, that the co-ordination of these various classes of writing has really never been attempted by one historian to any great extent in this particular field. The distinction between classifications is as sharp as that between the constitutional history of England and its political and military history, without such a divorce in the writing thereof being possible in the case of France. The Battle of Poitiers had little effect upon the development of the English Parliament. It exerted an immense influence upon the political, institutional and social history of France.

M. Coville at the first blush seems to have achieved his task admirably. But examination discloses that he has limited himself almost wholly to French sources. The limitation was natural, perhaps even necessary, in view of the immensity of the subject, and would not have jeopardized the general result in almost any other period of French history ; but the omission is unfortunate in this case. French and English history become in many ways the obverse and reverse side of the same thing during these centuries ; not all the truth, and often not enough of the truth to make the treatment intelligible and just can be derived from one side exclusively.

In common with every French historian, M. Coville exaggerates the importance of Edward III.'s claim to the throne of France and the vexed question of liege homage. The first was not a cause of war at all, but merely a pretext to cover the real reasons of the English ; and the question of homage was not a legal quibble merely. Edward was determined

not to perform liege homage until he was satisfied of his suzerain's intention to do him justice as a vassal of France. M. Coville omits to notice the important fact that Edward III. did not perform liege homage until the French government promised the redress of the injuries complained of by England. Edward III. is accused of playing a double game in making peace, though preparing for war and intriguing in Flanders. But why not Philip VI. also, not only in his relations to the Scotch, but in the unfair use made by him of the popes at Avignon?

Only half the truth will be learned from the French sources in the case of any great event. The history of Edward's campaign in Flanders and Picardy in 1339 is a one-sided account, for the author omits to mention the ravages of the English admiral, Sir Robert Morley, on the Norman coast, the fact that the Gascon nobles supported the French King, and that the French fleet was dispersed by a storm. A similar omission does injustice to the Flemings, for the circumstance that they were bound in the sum of two million *livres* penalty was a factor with their commercial interests in their desire that Edward III. should assume the French regal title. Van Artevelde's insistent overtures to Edward in 1342 are ascribed to the Flemish opposition to his domination and the policy of Louis of Nevers and the Duke of Brabant, the fact being ignored that the expiration of the truce of Espiechin threw Flanders back into a position of political peril independent of these influences.

The events preceding Crecy are clearly told, though there are some errors and one important omission. Edward arrived before Caen on July 26th and not on July 20th; the French constable was Raoul, not Robert de Brienne; the "count" of Tancarville was a simple sire. The omission is reference to the notable capture in the siege of Caen of the agreement made by the estates of Normandy with the crown in 1338, when a grand attack upon England was projected. The document was brought to England by the Earl of Huntingdon and publicly read by Archbishop Stratford in St. Paul's churchyard on August 12. Perhaps M. Coville regards it as a forgery of Edward to stimulate English feeling, but the English editor of Avesbury makes no doubt of its genuineness.

The chapter, "Le Gouvernement de Philippe VI.," is most excellent, and compensates the reader for the omissions of any notice either of the government of Lancaster in Guyenne—brief but valuable for the future history of the war—or of the English conduct of the war in Brittany. The reader would have been glad of an opinion upon the question of the immediate origin of the Jacquerie from so high an authority as the author, who is not so cautious in judging Étienne Marcel. The Peace of Brétigni is treated in all its phases save in the question of church property, provision for the restoration of which was introduced in the supplementary treaty of Calais, too important to be passed over without some allusion, especially in the light of the evidence collected by Father Denifle.

Nowhere, perhaps, is it more evident that the book has been written from French sources wholly than when the author is writing of Aquitaine

under the Black Prince. The policy of Charles V. was conspicuously able and the achievements of Du Guesclin remarkable. Yet part of the French success must be ascribed to the consummate folly of the Black Prince in the government of the south, and to the lack of efficient commanders among the English after the death of Sir John Chandos (1370), the noblest Englishman of them all ; but the Prince's policy is dismissed in two lines and a half and Chandos's death not even mentioned.

After 1380 French history until Agincourt is less dependent upon English sources, and the latter portion of the book is less one-sided. It is strange, though, that when relying upon French sources merely, the French-Scotch alliance of 1383 to check the crusade of the bishop of Norwich in Flanders should fail of mention, the raid of the Scotch being later presented as an independent movement and one not inspired by France. This brevity to the point of sacrifice contrasts with the statement made relative to Philip Van Artevelde that "il avait rempli dans la ville quelques offices importants" (p. 278). The words seem superfluous, even untrue, unless there are Belgian authorities unknown to the eminent editor of Froissart.

When we come to the relations of France with the first Lancastrian King, the failure to use English sources still vexes the reader. A paragraph is devoted to an account of the vain-glorious challenge of the English King by the Duke of Orleans, as if it were of real historic importance. An examination of the first volume of the "Proceedings of the English Privy Council" would have cast a more valuable light upon the relations of the two countries and showed how French gold and guile fomented the Scotch war. A reference to Rymer would have trimmed the smoothness of this sentence : "Malgré tous ces défis, la trêve de vingt-huit ans fut expressément maintenue, confirmée tous les ans ;" for as a matter of history, the English council was deliberating a declaration of war (Feb. 9, 1400) when the tardily approved truce (Jan. 29, 1400) was returned from Paris. Peace escaped into the temple of Janus by the narrow margin of eleven days !

The errors, fortunately, seem to be few ; three of them (p. 37, 39, note, 58, note) are misprints in the case of English words. On p. 29, the affair of Cadzand happened November 9, 1337, and not in October ; the bishop of Lincoln, instead of getting to Paris in 1337, as stated on p. 39, got no farther than Boulogne.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.

Henry V. The Typical Mediæval Hero. By CHARLES L. KINGSFORD. [Heroes of the Nations Series.] (New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. xxxi, 418.)

THE successive volumes of the "Heroes of the Nations" series keep up to a very satisfactory grade of excellence. There are few if any of its volumes which fall below the standard of good serious historical work. Certainly this biography of Henry V. is no exception to the rule. It is based entirely on original authorities which are used with skill, care and